

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /169 W

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P 102000Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4596

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN REACTION TO TESTIMONY ON PETROLEUM
OF TREASURY UNDERSECRETARY BENNETT

REF: CARACAS 6282

1. WHEN FONMIN SCHACHT TELEPHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY
PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS INVITED ME TO BREAKFAST WITH HIM NEXT
SATURDAY, JULY 13, HE SAID THAT ON LEAVING MIRAFLORES PALACE
HE HAD BEEN ACCOSTED BY THE PRESS WHO ASKED VENEZUELAN
GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO STATEMENTS MADE YESTERDAY BEFORE A HOUSE
BANKING SUBCOMMITTEE BY UNDERSECRETARY OF THE TREASURY JACK BENNETT.
MINISTER SAID HE HAD REPLIED TO THE PRESS THAT VENEZUELA WAS A
SOVEREIGN NATION AND WOULD SET ITS OWN PETROLEUM POLICY WITHOUT
THE ASSISTANCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS.

2. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT WHEN I HAD READ PRESS REPORTS
(CARACAS 6282), I HAD TELEPHONED A HIGH OFFICIAL IN THE STATE
DEPARTMENT WHO REPLIED HE HAD HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF
MR. BENNETT'S TESTIMONY. I URGED FONMIN TO BELIEVE ME THAT
IT WAS NOTHING BUT COINCIDENCE THAT ON THE SAME DAY I HAD MADE
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MY DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED STATE 145991 (CARACAS 6263), OUR

TREASURY DEPARTMENT QUITE SEPARATELY HAD GIVEN TESTIMONY ON
PETROLEUM WHICH APPARENTLY HAD A WORLDWIDE THRUST BUT NOT
INTENTIONALLY DIRECTED ONLY AT VENEZUELA. I HAVE SENT SCHACHT FULL
TEXT OF BENNETT'S STATEMENT AS PROVIDED BY USIA.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, DEMARCHE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRICE TRENDS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE
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